

1                                   **MAYOR AND COUNCIL**  
2                                   **REGULAR MEETING**  
3                                   **BOROUGH HALL ANNEX**  
4                                   **September 20, 2006**  
5                                   **6:05pm**  
6

7    *A Meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Leonia, Bergen County, New*  
8    *Jersey was held this evening in the Borough Hall Annex at 6:00pm.*  
9

10   Mayor Cherchi asked everyone to stand while Council President Puzzo led in the Pledge  
11   of Allegiance.

12  
13   **Council Present**        *Mayor Laurence Cherchi, Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran,*  
14                               *Mitrani, Raucci, (arrived 6:15pm) Ryan, Puzzo*  
15

16   **Council Absent**        *None*  
17

18   **Also Present**           *Fran Lehmann, Borough Clerk, Brian Giblin, Borough Attorney*  
19                               *(7:25pm) William Severino, Architect, Tony Saitta, Department of*  
20                               *Public Works Superintendent*  
21

22   Mayor Cherchi called the meeting to order.  
23

24    **OPEN MEETING STATEMENT**  
25

26   Conditions of the Open Meeting Act have been met by notice placed on the Bulletin  
27   Board at Borough Hall and notice has been sent to the Official Newspaper.  
28

29   Mr. Severino, Architect for the Improvements to Borough Hall and Mr. Tony Saitta,  
30   Department of Public Works Superintendent made a presentation to the Governing Body  
31   regarding the impending improvements to Borough Hall.  
32

33    **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
34

35   Councilwoman Heveran, seconded by Councilman Ryan made a motion to approve the  
36   minutes of August 14, 2006, as amended. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins,  
37   Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Minutes approved.  
38

39   Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Council President Puzzo made a motion to approve  
40   the Closed Session Minutes of July 10, 2006. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins,  
41   Heveran, Mitrani, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Councilman Raucci abstained. Minutes  
42   approved.  
43

44   Councilman Hawkins, seconded by Council President Puzzo to approve as amended  
45   Council Meeting Minutes of July 17, 2006. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins,

46 Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci and Puzzo voted yes. Councilman Ryan abstained. Minutes  
47 approved.

48  
49 Councilwoman Heveran, seconded by Councilman Hawkins made a motion to approve  
50 the Minutes of Special Council Meeting August 7, 2006. Roll call vote; Councilpersons  
51 Hawkins, Heveran, Raucci, Ryan, and Puzzo voted yes. Councilwoman Mitrani  
52 abstained.

53  
54 Closed Session Minutes of July 17, 2006 –Councilman Ryan made a motion to approve  
55 as amended the Closed Session Minutes of July 17, 2006, seconded by Councilman  
56 Hawkins Roll call vote; Councilman Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and  
57 Puzzo voted yes minutes approved as amended.

### 58 59 60 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

61  
62 Chuck Lawlor, 149 Oakdene Avenue – Mr. Lawlor inquired about the findings of the  
63 sewer televising on Oakdene Avenue. Mayor Cherchi stated they are waiting for the  
64 report from the Borough Engineer. Councilman Hawkins stated no action will be taken  
65 until a report is received from the engineer.

66  
67 Mr. Melvin Christie, 129 Oakdene Avenue – Mr. Christie thanked the Council for getting  
68 the survey done. Mr. Christie brought to the attention a letter from the JIF regarding the  
69 damages caused by the sewer back-ups on Oakdene Avenue. Mr. Christie gave the letter  
70 to the Borough Clerk who will follow up with the JIF.

71  
72 Chuck Lawlor, 149 Oakdene Avenue – Mr. Lawlor noted that the DPW was aware of the  
73 problem. During heavy rainstorms the water would bubble up through the manhole at the  
74 corner of Grand Avenue and Oakdene. In the wintertime, the catch basin would become  
75 all ice.

76  
77 Mr. Morello, 328 Summit Avenue – Mr. Morello expressed concern that the same thing  
78 would happen at 341 Summit Avenue as happened on Leonia Avenue. He was  
79 concerned that the house would be demolished without the necessary permits and  
80 subdivided into three lots. Councilman Hawkins explained the new Large Lot Ordinance  
81 recently enacted by the Governing Body.

82 Mr. Morello also expressed concern about two homes one on Ames Avenue and one on  
83 Park Avenue that might be illegal multi-family dwellings. The Borough Clerk will give  
84 the information to the Zoning Official. Mayor Cherchi thanked Mr. Morello for coming  
85 to the meeting.

86  
87 Mr. Abi-Hanna, 338 Summit Avenue – reiterated what Mr. Morello had said concerning  
88 the homes on Park Avenue and Ames Avenue..

### 89 90 **HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION**

91

92 The Historic Preservation Commission made a presentation on the first Historic Home in  
93 Leonia.

94  
95 Mr. David Boyd gave a short history on the Ahrens house, and the renovations by Mr.  
96 North Peterson.

97  
98 Councilman Ryan suggested allowing those residents that arrived after the meeting  
99 opened a chance to speak. The Governing Body agreed.

## 100 101 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

102  
103 Anthony Cassano, 157 Oakdene Avenue – Mr. Cassano spoke about the sewer issues on  
104 Oakdene Avenue. Councilman Hawkins reported that the problem has been identified and  
105 the Borough is awaiting the final report. Mr. Cassano explained to the Governing Body  
106 how the check valve works.

107  
108 Melvin Christie, 129 Oakdene Avenue – Mr. Christie explained the type of check valves  
109 that three other residents had installed.

## 110 111 **RESOLUTIONS**

112  
113 Mayor Cherchi questioned if the fence could be included in the grant for Elm Place  
114 Parking Lot. Councilwoman Heveran responded this can be taken from the Recycling  
115 Tonnage Grant. The Borough Clerk responded that she had spoken with Community  
116 Development and fence cannot be included in the Grant. Mayor Cherchi was questioning  
117 this because he planned on vetoing the Bond Ordinance because he felt the Ordinance  
118 was fixing a drainage problem for one resident and ignoring other residents. Council  
119 President inquired what recourse the Council had if the Mayor vetoed the Ordinance?  
120 Borough Attorney Giblin explained that Council, after receiving the Mayor's veto would  
121 have the opportunity to override the veto with a 2/3 vote of the Council in favor of  
122 approving the Bond Ordinance.

123  
124 Council President Puzzo made a motion to approve Resolution 06-228 through 06-230,  
125 seconded by Councilwoman Heveran. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran,  
126 Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Resolutions approved.

127  
128 Resolution 06-232 – Councilwoman Heveran inquired about the Judge that was being  
129 hired to conduct a personnel investigation. Borough Attorney Giblin explained his  
130 credentials. Councilwoman Heveran made a motion to approve Resolution 06-232,  
131 seconded by Councilman Puzzo. Roll call vote; Councilpersons Hawkins, Heveran,  
132 Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan and Puzzo voted yes. Resolution 06-232 approved.

138  
139 **INTRODUCTION OF ORDINANCES**  
140

141 Introduction of Ordinance 15-06 entitled:

142  
143 **BOND ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAKING OF VARIOUS**  
144 **PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS IN, BY AND FOR THE BOROUGH OF**  
145 **LEONIA, IN THE COUNTY OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY,**  
146 **TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$288,000 TO PAY THE COST**  
147 **THEREOF, TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT, TO AUTHORIZE THE**  
148 **ISSUANCE OF BONDS TO FINANCE SUCH APPROPRIATION AND**  
149 **TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BOND ANTICIPATION**  
150 **NOTES IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF SUCH BONDS.**

151  
152 **Borough Clerk Read the Ordinance by Title**  
153

154 A motion was made by Councilperson Heveran seconded by Councilperson  
155 Hawkins to adopt on first reading Ordinance 15-06.  
156

157 Councilman Hawkins inquired if changes could be made to the Bond Ordinance  
158 what would be required? Borough Attorney Giblin stated that any substantive  
159 changes the Ordinance would have to be re-introduced. Councilman Hawkins  
160 inquired what would happen if all the funds were not utilized in the Ordinance.  
161 Mayor Cherchi explained the money would be returned to Capital by Resolution.  
162 Borough Attorney Giblin added that everything that is raised in the Bond does not  
163 need to be spent.  
164

165 Roll call vote; Councilperson Hawkins, Heveran, Mitrani, Raucci, Ryan, Puzzo,  
166 voted yes. Ordinance 15-06 introduced.  
167

168 **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**  
169

- 170 a.) Function of Committees – Councilwoman Mitrani explained why this was put  
171 on the agenda. Councilman Hawkins explained his position with his posting  
172 on the LTA Website.  
173  
174 b.) Gasoline Usage and Controls in the Borough – Councilwoman Mitrani asked  
175 if a memo sent by the Borough Clerk to the Superintendent of Public Works,  
176 in reference to a memo sent by members of LTA was responded to? Mayor  
177 Cherchi responded that the DPW Chief should respond and he feels this is a  
178 legitimate question. Councilwoman Mitrani stated she spoke with the  
179 Superintendent who explained the Police Department, Fire Department, DPW  
180 Board of Education and Ambulance each keep their own logs. Councilwoman  
181 Mitrani further noted that there is no reconciliation as to the amount of gas  
182 consumed is what is being purchased.  
183

- 184 c.) Sylvan Park – Councilman Raucci reported on the status of Sylvan Park  
185 drainage and sod. Councilman Raucci brought the Governing Body up to date  
186 on the progress of the field house.  
187
- 188 d.) Intersection Fort Lee Road/Glenwood Avenue – Council President Puzzo  
189 stated that this had been brought up at an earlier time and would like to revisit  
190 the intersection again. Council President Puzzo would like to have this  
191 considered. Council President Puzzo explained the striping plan. The Council  
192 discussed the intersection change at length.  
193
- 194 e.) Tree for the Triangle – Discussed earlier.  
195
- 196 f.) Clerk of the Works – Council President Puzzo explained it would benefit to  
197 have someone help manage the project in the absence of an administrator.  
198 Council President Puzzo suggested using Rick Pumo. The Council discussed  
199 utilizing Mr. Pumo to oversee the project.  
200
- 201 g.) Councilman Hawkins reported that Traffic Officer Scott Tamagny inquired  
202 about the striping on the roads designed by the previous engineer. The roads  
203 are completed but there is no striping of cross walks etc. When Councilman  
204 Hawkins spoke with Mr. Berliner he reported that they were not included in  
205 the specifications by the previous engineer. Councilman Hawkins said he  
206 spoke with the Superintendent of Public Works he was told they could not do  
207 it.  
208

209 A discussion was held regarding the fireworks proposed by the Korean Thanksgiving  
210 Celebration.  
211

## 212 **CORRESPONDENCE**

213

214 Borough Clerk reported on the closure of Route 46 in Ridgefield Park by the DOT.  
215

216 Councilman Hawkins spoke about an article he included in the Council packets regarding  
217 light rail.  
218

## 219 **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

220

221 No one spoke.  
222

## 223 **CLOSED SESSION Resolution P**

224

225 A motion was made by Council President Puzzo to into Closed Session, seconded by  
226 Councilman Ryan to discuss; Selection of Borough Administrator; Personnel Matters;  
227 Building Department Complaint. All in favor none opposed.  
228

229 A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Councilwoman Heveran, seconded by  
230 Councilman Raucci. All in favor none opposed.

231

232 Meeting adjourned at 10:00pm

233

234 Respectfully submitted,

235

236

237

238 Frances Lehmann

239 Borough Clerk